

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7636
BILL NUMBER: SB 462

DATE PREPARED: Feb 8, 1999
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Physician assistants.

FISCAL ANALYST: Bernadette Bartlett
PHONE NUMBER: 232-9586

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill changes the certification process for a physician assistant to a licensure process. A licensed physician is authorized to delegate prescribing privileges to a physician assistant. The supervising physician is authorized to determine the number of physician assistants to supervise. A physician assistant is authorized to certify the health status of patients. A physician assistant is also authorized to provide care in a disaster or emergency situation without liability unless the physician assistant is grossly, willfully, or wantonly negligent. This bill makes certain other changes.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The Health Professions Bureau oversees the state regulation of physician assistants. The Bureau will experience additional expenses associated with issuing new wall licenses to those practitioners who currently have wall certificates that reflect certification status. The Bureau will also dispose of current supplies of blank wall certificates and replace them with new wall licenses. New applications reflecting the licensure status instead of the certification status would have to be ordered. The Bureau would also experience additional expenses associated with notifying all current practitioners.

The Bureau would also incur additional expenses associated with allowing physician assistants prescriptive authority. The Bureau would need to discard current controlled substance registration (CSR) applications and modify the form to include physician assistants. The Physician Assistants Committee would also need to meet monthly to develop new rules to implement the above. (The Committee currently meets quarterly.) The Bureau will also experience an increase in telephone inquiries about the proposed changes. Total increased expenses are outlined below.

Costs Associated with Licensing Physician Assistants and Allowing Prescriptive Authority		
Expense	Fiscal Year 2000	Fiscal Year 2001
Per Diem	\$3,000	\$1,500
Travel	9,500	4,750
Printing	4,500	2,250
Postage	5,000	2,500
Telephone	1,500	750
Supplies	1,500	750
Total	\$25,000	\$12,500

Explanation of State Revenues: (Revised) Indiana currently certifies 177 physician assistants. The cost for an initial application is \$30, and the cost to renew a certification is \$20 biennially. Revenue collected in fiscal year 1997 equaled \$1,400. Revenue collected in fiscal year 1998 equaled \$2,640. The proposal may affect the number of applications and the amount of renewal fees that the Bureau collects. The specific impact, however, is indeterminable. License fees are deposited in the State General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Health Professions Bureau

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Barbara Marvel McNutt, Board Director and Staff Counsel, Health Professions Bureau (317) 233-4406.